

Generous sense of brotherhood and consan-
guinity amongst classes, which characterized
the times we are desirous of emulating, and
in principle instilling.

We have better proof of this than our own
speculations, or conjectures, for while we have
letters such as these, we have others from
perfect strangers to us; nay, our first sub-
scriber was a dignitary of the Irish church,
who wrote promptly, on the appearance of the
precursor number, and every day brings to us
similar kind, and—as we profess the ad-
vocacy of the workman's cause as much as any
other—grateful evidences of approbation from
the titled and the learned.

W. M. is quite right. Who can be sur-
prised at the diversion into channels of a dis-
cumbered notoriety, the exercise of talents
such as those he gives instances of, when the
honest courses were frowned upon, or at least
looked at with indifference? Human beings
have implanted in them an ambition, which
would not have been, unless it were intended
to be exercised,—but how exercised?—tem-
pered with a truly rational sense of our voca-
tion and character, a looking beyond ourselves
instead of within ourselves, except for the
purpose of comparing our littleness with that
which is without; ambition, thus directed and
thus exercised, will lead to right ends, and
ennoble, rather than degrade, those who are
born with or imbibed its ascendant impulses.

The practice which our correspondent speaks
of as general, in the selection of foremen,
is not so bad as he would have it inferred, or
rather as his letter would cause to be inferred,
for we collect from the admission of his own
experience, that it was otherwise in a shop
wherein he himself worked; but we do know
instances of the prevalence of the strange, non-
sensible notion that an overseer of work must be a man
of driving—and we will not notice the matter
any more than our correspondent, of "bullying
propensities." This is an evil, however,
that its correction in the very same prin-
ciple that we prescribe to all classes—proper
discipline. Neither master, foreman, nor
workman, when they know their true position
will degrade themselves into the character of
tyrant of place, which the task-master, the
bully, or the cringing undoubtedly are—one
of the others, if not both, for slavery and
slavery are but aspects from the same root.

Self-interest, good friends, is but a signet of
protection; it will save us from self-degradation,
and having done that, it will protect us
from the degradation, if any such could be at-
tempted towards us, by others.

Our correspondent, and perceive, if he reads
the precursor number, that politics are discus-
sion, at least are flung out from our discus-
sion, as they are from our inclination. Party
views and passions are the bane of social hap-
piness, and we seek to administer the antidote
that what may still be termed politics will in
all probability frequently engage us. Suppose
a-morrow it were proposed to take off the duty on
foreign-made furniture and joinery "we
believe it is 30 per cent., does any one consider
it would become us to be silent, to look on in
stupidity at the threatened destruction of 160,000
carpenters and joiners and cabinet-makers, by
the sudden free importation of German labour
products? Certainly not; and had we been on
long before the passing of the last tariff, we
should have discussed its provisions, and done
our best to avert the evil; such we understand,
has fallen heavily in many instances; but the
most, previously, as we are sorry to record,
upon a class who could almost least of all
afford to lose it,—namely the poor labourers.
We have heard of serious privations that the
poor men have been exposed to in the town of
Hull, and we dare say the case is much the
same in other of our timber-importing districts.
So far we shall not must be politicians—but
no farther—yet we add to us "the millions
of many for the gain of the few."

It is a well-known fact, that the appearance of the second
number of "The Builder" is to give the surveyors
to be employed on the various of the prop-
rietary, if they undertake the advocacy of the
physical and moral interests of the labouring por-
tion of the Builders.

Suppose, then, it were to direct the ex-
penditure of intellectual energy which exists in
the working class, to the different systems
which are being advanced to remove the material
poverty of the working class, and to build
builders are among the principal leaders. I need

only mention the name of A. Fleming (the editor
of the *New Moral World*), who obtained such
notoriety as leader of the deputation which waited
on the present ministers relative to the Ten Hours
Factory Bill, who a few years back was a journeymen
painter, and Armstrong, the charlatan, to show
that if the ability, real, and perseverance which
characterize what bright spirits they might
become. It is then my conviction that W. M., by the
establishment of your journal, a means might be
adopted by which the working classes might com-
mune with the elevated and enlightened portion of
our class, much of the tyranny which now exists
would be removed. The poor have few ad-
vocates, and when an appeal is made through the un-
professional (as far as regards building) press,
they, from ignorance of the necessary details, in
general decide against them. But in a Builder's
journal, should the necessity of an impartial deci-
sion between master and man arise, an opportunity
is offered for the different statements, and there is
no doubt (if the truth is maintained on both sides)
of a satisfactory result.

I have spoken of tyranny existing. It may be
argued that it is necessary to enable the masters to
surround their engagements and contracts, with the
tenant and drunken workmen, they are obliged to
employ. But all are not so, and it is only by the
diffusing of practical knowledge in an engaging
form, with their interests blended, that their igno-
rance can be removed, and when that is done,
drunkenness will soon follow.

The general practice of selecting foremen of bul-
lying propensities causes these remarks. It is not
my purpose to individualize, because there are many
exceptions; a shop I worked in about five years is
one but where they are employed, talent, sobriety,
and industry are not of much value in that shop
consequently we want a class magazine, for all par-
ties to express their feelings, to receive and impart
instruction, that we may progress with more unity
of feeling than has been the case for years past.

It should advise you to have nothing to do with
politics, for the differences of opinion are so great.
Those who are politically inclined can easily refer
to the papers suited to their taste at the different
coffee-houses. Would not the division into sections,
in which consecutive papers on Drawing, Mechanics,
Architecture, Literature, &c., particularly notices
of works commenced or completed would appear,
be most advantageous? For if gentlemen with talent
will condescend to be our instructors, and endeav-
our to improve us in the means of getting a living
less precarious than at present, the character of
our class could be amended. Let not our ignorance
be the cause of our being punished for that very
ignorance which it is our desire to remove. If gen-
tlemen will do this, they will receive the aspirations
of gratitude from many who will say we may the
drawing masters which are so often cast upon them.
—Lambeth. "W. M."

January 12th, 1843.

We deem the following letter as one of
great importance. An exhibition room
arranged, and architectural subjects displayed
as suggested by "W. M." would, so far from
failing in attraction, be the very magnet of
our exhibitions. What could compete with
it? An architectural hall, or rather a series
of halls, is what we require, and we are not
at all astonished that architecture should have
been treated in our other exhibitions as it has
been. It was indeed morally impossible that
it could have been otherwise. How could the
less contain the greater?

A grand suite of architectural exhibition
rooms would enable us to assert a sovereign
claim to public attention; if drawings, models,
specimens, and the relics of our art were col-
lected and arranged in an appropriate manner,
where, let us ask, would be the museum or
exhibition to be named in the same day with
this? Surely the architects, who build
academies, halls and colleges, for all
classes, know how to build one of such for
themselves. This is a subject upon which we
dare not trust ourselves to dilate—its vastness
and consequence is almost overpowering; but
we predict that this is its beginning. Many
thanks to "W. M."

"W. M."—I very much wish you would call attention
to the recently commencing allusion to archi-
tectural drawings at the Royal Academy, and sug-
gest that the profession ought now to establish a
separate annual exhibition of their own, upon an
adequate scale, and not confined to merely eleva-
tions and perspective views, but for drawings and
subjects of every kind belonging to architecture,
decoration, furniture, &c. &c. At the time the
Royal Academy was founded, a single moderate-
sized room was set apart for the exhibition of
its exhibitions; but architecture is now in a very

different position among us. The profession has
greatly increased in numbers, and the public are
beginning to take more and more interest every day
in architecture and the study of it. Formerly there
was not a single architectural journal of any sort,
and very rarely a paper upon any of its con-
tents in other periodicals; whereas at present, pub-
lications of the latter class often contain architec-
tural articles of considerable interest;—although Mr.
Gill would fain make it appear that being any-
mous, they must or are all worthless, and fur-
ther, holds in contempt all non-professional writers
on the subject, be they anonymous ones or not,—
all such scribbles as Thos. Hope, Whewell, and
Willis.

Surely architecture can now afford to be quite
independent of the Royal Academy. I do not
mean to be in hostility to it, but amicably so, in the
manner as the "Institute of Architects" now is.
Even could adequate accommodation in regard to
space for architectural drawings be provided by the
Royal Academy, they would always be in the eye of
the public but a merely supplementary part of the
general exhibition; consequently attract compar-
atively very little attention or notice. Very different
would the case be in an exhibition exclusively archi-
tectural, because then there would be nothing else
to attend to, and people would have time for delib-
erate inspection of such drawings, which now
seldom obtain from the majority of visitors more
than a hurried glance, begrudgingly bestowed on
them in proceeding to or returning from the "pic-
tures." But then you will perhaps say: the public
would not go to a merely architectural exhibition;
but I think that the novelty of one would prove
a sufficient attraction at first, and by the time that
had worn off, people would go out of a real liking
for it, or because other people went, and among
them those who are looked up to as persons of
superior taste.

Were there an exhibition of the kind suggested,
and should there ever be one, instead of the walls
being covered, there should be no more than two
lines of drawings placed above the level of the eye,
so that every one of them might be distinctly seen.
Were there such an exhibition, it would raise
architecture to be talked of, and would excite more
interest in regard to it than exists at present. The
exhibition of the designs for the new Houses
of Parliament was of material service in this way; it
forced architecture upon public attention in a
degree till then unprecedented; partly, it must be
confessed, on account of the particular importance
of the occasion, but if not precisely of the same
kind, nearly equal interest would, no doubt, be
excited by the establishment of an annual architec-
tural exhibition at all events, it is worth while
making the experiment, not with a view to a tem-
porary profit—for if it merely paid its expenses, it
would be sufficient—but because it would show that
architects were disposed to exert themselves, and to
encourage in the public a taste for architectural
design.—I remain, &c. "W. M."

Our correspondent, signing himself "An
ardent Admirer of Architecture, and all that
pertains thereto, and a Student of the Royal
Academy," is thanked for his communications;
and in reply to his several suggestions, we
have to state the following:

1st. As to excluding all advertisements un-
connected with architecture and building, we
refer him to what we said on this head in our
last number; and again to so much of our
leader of to-day as bears upon the question of
the support which we base a right to claim
from that class of advertisers who directly ap-
peal to the Builders. Our correspondent says,
and says justly, "If the building community
cannot furnish advertisements enough to sup-
port a publication for their own immediate and
mutual advantage, the spirited task which you
have undertaken had, I am certain, better be
abandoned under the slightest delay." Now,
there is no "if" in the matter; the building
community, and those who cater for them,
can, and will support it; but there are some,
as we have said, very slow to move—they will
wait awhile, they say—and we shall see them
dropping in by degrees; as they find the paper
getting established independently of any aid
from them. We have therefore to be particu-
larly thankful to those advertising friends of
another class who give their unreserved sup-
port at this crisis, and the builders ought to
feel with us equally thankful, and to mark
their sense of it in the proper manner.

As to binding up the magazine part distinct
from advertisements, he will see we have at-
tended to that.

He objects to the extracts which we gave in
the way of light reading, but he must be ac-
cused that all are not probably disposed like
himself of ourselves, and will object to over-